

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Work progressing in Guigue, Venezuela

By Leon Emery
Franklin Assoc. Director of Missions

When the United In Faith Baptist Church in Valencia, Venezuela, started the work at Guigue about two years ago, they were still a mission.

With no building of their own, a bivocational pastor, and a host of other matters, they still felt that work must be started at Guigue.

The mother church is now running about 60-75 in Sunday School and 80-90 in worship. With no house of worship of their own, they are still trying to find a building for their mission.

As the work began, the Lord really smiled on them because they found a young couple who also wanted to start a work there.

Nestor Pandare, who grew up in Guigue, and his wife Jaquelyn had moved back to his home town. Jaquelyn, a teacher, and Nestor, a student who works, were trying to start a church that was not Baptist.

Their testimony is that God told them to help the Baptists build a church. The Pandares were rewarded for their effort during the recent crusade March 9-12, because his entire

family was saved. All seven members were saved during a witnessing visit in their home.

Also, 31 others came to know Christ and 16 came for life commitment to Christ.

and the gospel so welcome that a faithful Christian who knows how to witness could spend all of his days going from house to house witnessing for Christ.

One man said, "I must go to

evangelist for the two revivals.

The Hawkins have just returned from a trip to Puerto Ayacucho in the Amazon state. This was a 2,200 trip over very rough roads. They were there translating for a construction team working on a church building.

Joe and Norma Powell are coordinators of the Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership. Much credit is due this couple for the wonderful fellowship between the missionaries, nationals and visiting teams.

Leon and Jean Champion manage the book store. Some will remember them serving in Mississippi.

Those fortunate enough to be assigned to the United In Faith Baptist Church, will be invited to visit and have meals with the Silvas.

Angela Martinez is truly an angel (messenger) for the Lord who

gave a week of her life to serve as guide for the revival. She knows how to make friends and influence people. She also knows how to follow up and enroll the new converts in Bible study and Christian orientation.

Don't leave Guigue until you meet the young people of the mission who added so much to the revival and visitation.

Emery recently returned from a mission trip to Venezuela sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions Office.



READY FOR MISSIONS — Leon Emery (right), meets with members of the Guigue, Venezuela Baptist mission before hitting the streets of the city to invite residents to worship with them. With Emery are (from left) Jaquelyn Pandare, wife of pastor Nestor Pandare; Angela Martinez; and three unidentified members of the mission. (BR special photo)

Rafael Romero Silva, pastor of the mother church, carried on his work as a professional, preached and served his church, and also worked with the team at Guigue.

The spirit is so strong in this town, the people so friendly,

the doctor but I want you to pray for me and come and witness to my family while I go. I want you to come back tomorrow and talk to me."

Within a 10-mile radius of Guigue there are about 125,000 people, and this small mission is the only effective witness.

Roy Hawkins and his wife Judy serve the Lord well in Valencia.

In addition to all the other duties, Roy serves as pastor of the Bethel Mission. He also took time to serve as driver, interpreter, and host to the

B&H books win Gold Medallions

Two Broadman & Holman (B&H) books took home Gold Medallion awards from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) during the Christian Booksellers Association meeting in Atlanta, July 14-17.

Gold Medallion Book Awards, established in 1978, recognize the highest quality in Christian books. A total of 59 publishers and 496 titles were nominated as finalists in the 1997 competition. Six B&H books were finalists in the 20 categories.

In the Christian Living category, B&H's "Financially Confident Woman" by Mary Hunt won out over Word Publishing's "Hope Again" by Charles Swindoll; Gospel Light/Regal Books' "When Men Think Private Thoughts" by Gordon MacDonald; and Focus on the Family's "Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough" by Elmer Towns.

In the Family and Parenting category, B&H's "The Father Connection" by Josh McDowell won out over Chariot Victor Publishing's "Financial Parenting" by Larry Burkett & Rick Osborne; Focus on the Family's "She Calls Me Daddy" by Robert Wolgemuth; Servant Publications' "Living With A Challenging Child" by Jayne Garrison; and Word Publishing's "The Family Manager" by Kathy Peel.

Also, the B&H book, "Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby and Claude King, was a finalist in the ECPA's Christian Book of the Year, the association's most prestigious honor. Word Publishing's "In the Grip of Grace" by Max Lucado took that award.

Looking back

10 years ago

A paid assassin was unable to shoot a Brazilian Christian that he stalked for three days in a case of mistaken identity. The professional killer told Valter Custodio Dias, a Baptist, he had tried to kill him but failed. Dias claimed the protection of the angel of the Lord.

20 years ago

Four Mississippi students return from a four-week mission stint in Africa, more appreciative of their lot in America. The students are Loreta Reynolds, University of Southern Mississippi; Al Fike, William Carey College; Kathy Staggs, Ole Miss; and Eddie Broadhead, Mississippi College.

50 years ago

Church World Service, an interdenominational welfare agency, announced it is sending 35,000 pounds of food and other goods to Okinawa. The agency is the first to send supplies to the Japanese island, including 7,500 lbs of food, 31 bales of bedding, and 250 bales of clothing.

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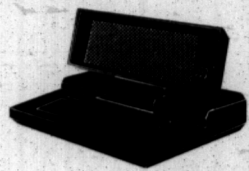
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How 'Butterfly Kisses' won the culture war

It's nothing short of phenomenal — and that's no exaggeration. "Butterfly Kisses," written and performed by heretofore unknown Christian recording artist Bob Carlisle, is sweeping the country like virtually no other tune in Christian or secular recording history.

That's right. An unabashedly Christian song by an unabashed Christian singer sits atop the industry-standard "Billboard" magazine pop music charts, and it seems to be picking up more listeners every day. The ceiling for this song is nowhere in sight.

It's been a heady trip for Carlisle, who worked in the background of the Nashville Christian music scene for more than 20 years before breaking out with "Butterfly Kisses."

Carlisle wrote the song late one night while waiting for his daughter to return home. He thought it would be a nice present for her upcoming 16th birthday. As he put pen to paper, the verses began to flow:

*Butterfly kisses after bedtime
prayer./ Stickin' little white flowers all
up in her hair./ "Walk beside the pony,
Daddy, it's my first ride./ I know the
cake looks funny, Daddy, but I sure
tried."/ Oh, with all that I've done
wrong, I must have done something
right/ To deserve a hug every morning
and butterfly kisses at night.*

The unprecedented popularity of "Butterfly Kisses" has been achieved without the endorsement of most mainstream media (no surprise there). MTV doesn't think much of it, and secular critics have sniffed that it's just too "syrupy," "weepy," and "unsophisticated" to be a hit.

They just don't get it.

"Butterfly Kisses" is about one father's unconditional commitment to his child, phrased simply and described in down-to-earth terms. Copious sex, misogyny, drug use, and killing cops are not mentioned even once in the whole song.

As a matter of fact, it's the only secular hit song in recent memory that actually uses the name of Jesus in a manner other than defamatory. Imagine that.

"Butterfly Kisses" must create great discomfort for the keepers of the unwritten rules of our culture. Here is a father — a man — who thinks of himself as more than a sex-charged, self-gratifying, self-centered seeker of pleasure at all costs.

Here is a father who regrets his mistakes and is humbly grateful for second chances. Here is a father who admits praying with his child at bedtime, a father who actually *wants to be home* at his child's bedtime.

For all the powerful emotions stirred in the hearts of fathers, however, "Butterfly Kisses" apparently has an even more profound meaning for women.

Carlisle appeared on "Oprah" this past Father's Day to perform "Butterfly Kisses." When he finished, there wasn't a dry eye in the predominantly female audience. So moved was Oprah Winfrey that she could only hold aloft the song's CD case and say, "Buy this."

Pondering that scene, one could only wonder how many of those audience members were moved to tears because they grew up without such a father, and how many of them knew their own young daughters are sadly consigned to the same fate.

It's tough being a father in a culture that has steadily downgraded the expectations of fatherhood for decades. It's even tougher being a Christian father in a society where manhood is measured in hours worked,



money acquired, and worldly adulation.

Maybe we can take a cue from Carlisle in that area, too.

Faced with the overwhelming demands of superstar fame and fortune, Carlisle turned down all appearance requests this past Spring to attend a certain high school graduation in Franklin, Tenn. It was there that he gave his greatest performance — singing his signature song for the graduating daughter who inspired him to write "Butterfly Kisses."

Thanks, Bob Carlisle, from the Christian fathers and mothers who fight the culture war every day to be the parents God intends for us to be for our children.

There are a lot of us out here, and we appreciate the encouragement.

GUEST OPINION:



Pray, work for peace

By Paul G. Jones II
Executive Director, Mississippi Baptist
Christian Action Commission

As I knocked on the door, I could hear the shuffle of his faltering steps making his way to greet me. We exchanged a handshake and a hug, each of us holding on for just a moment.

We both knew that each time we met that it could be the last, and quietly we clung on for one more hug and a kiss on the cheek.

The modest house was filled with the smells of stale cigar smoke and old tobacco pipes. The furniture was dusty and well-worn, but it had the look and feel of home. Small, simple, and almost sparse — the home of the man who was my hero, Dad.

Not much to show for the life of a decorated military officer. The medals, the uniforms, the commendations were all put away and his frail body showed the toll of time.

I had come to visit, to talk, knowing I would not have many more such occasions. As we visited, he asked me about my prayer life. It was not a subject we had ever talked about, and I was amazed as he asked if I ever prayed for world peace.

This professional soldier, this decorated veteran of two wars, my hero, asked me to join him in praying daily for peace in the world.

Sunday, August 3 is the Southern Baptist Day of Prayer for World Peace. Our convention established this special emphasis to focus on the need to be praying peacemakers.

On this special Sunday, believers can do several things to affirm the Lord of Peace:

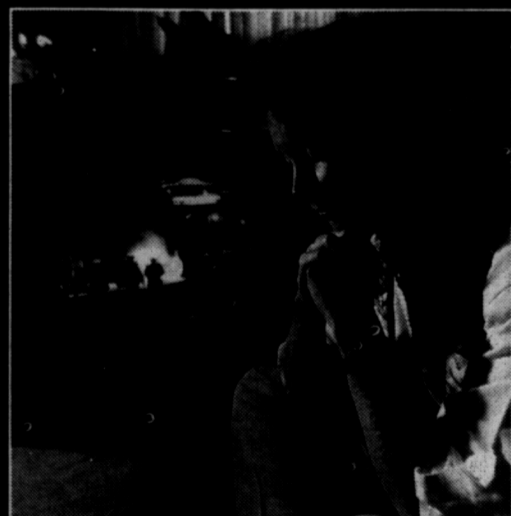
◆ **Pray for those in authority.** 1 Tim. 2:1-2 instructs believers to pray for civil authorities. The Scripture does not limit this prayer to Christian leaders, or only to leaders of our nation or political persuasion.

It is evident from Scripture that God has

ordained every civil authority — all world leaders (Rom. 13:1-7). The beginning of world peace must surely be in the hearts and on the tongues of every believer.

The followers of the Prince of Peace can

'Lord, You will establish peace'
(Isaiah 26:12, NKJV)



Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace
August 3, 1997

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

never be proponents of strife and conflict. Are we praying without ceasing for peace?

◆ **Work to eliminate the causes of strife that lead to war.** Many of the problems that ultimately lead to war can be personally addressed and eliminated by the Lord's church. The greater our missionary efforts through medical, hunger relief, agricultural, and educational programs, the more we will be able to eliminate the causes of national and international unrest and discontent.

◆ **Strive to eliminate hate and anger from our own hearts.** Hate and anger, whether personal or corporate, are not to be known among God's people. Prejudice, meanness, and a contentious spirit prohibit God's people from being workers for peace.

Religious people who spend time warring with each other often find no desire to work for peace among other people.

Where families, churches, and religious bodies contend with fellow believers, the world cannot see the Prince of Peace and the Lord of Love reflected in them.

◆ **Become a maker of peace.** According to Matt. 5:9, the makers of peace will be blessed — the ones who will be called the sons of God.

The ultimate end of creation must be left in the hand of God. Moreover, the church must not attempt to force the hand of God by employing political power, economic self-interest, or military might to hasten our eschatological (end time) beliefs.

Again, the Word of God is not vague when it declares, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God."

Will you be praying for world peace this Sunday?

Miss. All-State Youth Choir completes 5th year

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

In 1993, 66 teenagers in grades nine through 12 auditioned for the first Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir. A total of 35 youth were chosen.

Five years later, 173 young people auditioned for the choir at 10 locations around the state, and 109 traveled as the fifth All-State Youth Choir, according to Susan Clark, youth music consultant for

the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Along with 22 adult and college sponsors, the choir traversed the state presenting Christian music concerts at First Church, Laurel; First Church, Amory; First Church, Tupelo; First Church, Hernando; North Oxford Church, Oxford; Parkway Church, Natchez; and Crossgates Church, Brandon.

"Being at the final concert of

the 1997 All State Youth Choir was a deepening fulfillment of a vision for the young people of our churches," said L. Graham Smith, director of the MBCB Church Music Department.

"That Tuesday night, 109 of our finest Baptist young people united in a celebration of praise to our God — a worship experience to be remembered for a lifetime!" he said.

Richard Joiner, head of the Music Department at Mississippi College in Clinton, has served as the choral director each year.

For the past two tours David Young, professor of music and director of the instrumental program at William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg, has been the orchestra director.

While music is the focus of this ministry, Clark is quick to point out that there is more.

"We have a clear focus on the spiritual aspects of the choir," she said. "We have family groups of seven youth and one adult and a choir pastor to give strong emphasis on the spiritual aspect."

Mark Koon, minister of activities at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, serves as pastor.

Auditions for the 1998 All-State Youth Choir will be held at 11 locations around the state on Oct. 23 - Nov. 24. To audi-

tion, a young person must complete an application form with the Church Music Department at least two weeks prior to the selected audition date.

Applications are available through the MBCB Church Music Department, ministers of music in the state, and in the Youth Music Ministry Planbook.

To prepare for the audition, Clark recommends a young person start working on sight-reading music and singing parts. The student must also prepare a solo. Accompanist will be available. Tapes cannot be used for audition solos.

The 1998 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra rehearsal camp will begin June 15 at WCC,



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and will follow with an in-state tour through June 23, 1998.

For more information, contact the Church Music Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



CHOIR TOUR — Rachel Michel of Brandon (left), Elaine Edwards of Clarksdale (center), and John Mark Koon of Jackson (far right) lead worshipers at the homecoming concert of the 1997 All-State Youth Choir at Crossgates Church in Brandon. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Youth Night '97 termed 'outstanding'

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night '97 on July 25-26 can only be described as "outstanding," according to the chairman of the committee that put together the long-running event.

"We were very pleased. There were approximately 11,500 people in attendance, with at least 150 recorded decisions for Christ and many other decisions for which we did not get a record. This is one of the highlight

events of the year for the Mississippi Baptist Convention," said Matt Buckles, Youth Night committee chairman and consultant in the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The event is sponsored each year as a ministry of the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

Youth Night '97 marked the second consecutive year that two services were offered in Jackson's Mississippi Coliseum — a Friday evening service followed by an identical Saturday morning service.

Christian recording artist Al Denson, who was born in Starkville, headlined the musical portion of Youth Night '97 along with guitarist Jeff Calhoun. Youth evangelist David Busby of Edina, Minn., was the featured speaker.

Friday evening testimonies were given by Ben Derrick of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson; Stephanie Stringer of New Hope Church, Foxworth; Joe Nunley of First Church, Indianola; Scott Parkinson of First Church, Lexington; and Michael Pierce of First Church, Pearl.

Saturday morning testimonies included Jarrett Carraway of First Church, Kosciusko; Lindsey Melton of First Church, Greenville; Riley Brown of First Church, Eupora; and Wayne Pinkerton of First Church, Greenville.

"Al Denson is one of today's foremost Christian contemporary recording artists. He is very adept at both solo performances and involving a large crowd in worship.

"David Busby's message from Dan. 3 was excellent, describing for the young people how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bend before King Nebuchadnezzar," Buckles said.

About 200 volunteer counselors were on hand during the public decision time to talk with the young people who came forward.

Youth Night committee member Steve Wilson, pastor of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, coordinated counselor training.



Busby

Buckles said the committee will meet in about a month to evaluate Youth Night '97 and begin planning for Youth Night '98, scheduled for July 24-25 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

"We invite anyone to contact us during the evaluation process," Buckles said.

In addition to Buckles and Wilson, the Youth Night '97 committee included Jim Lott, minister of music at First Church, Pearl; Gary Phillips, youth minister at First Church, Quitman; David Bryant, youth minister at First Church, Yazoo City; Larry Salter, consultant in the MBCB Sunday School Department; and Susan Clark, consultant in the MBCB Church Music Department.



Denson

Youth group has message for all: Encourage!

By Chad Polk
Gulfshore Assembly Intern

Just weeks after Indian Springs Church, Petal, lost their youth minister, the young people from the church came to Gulfshore Assembly's Youth Week with a message.

Their youth minister, Brian Smith, took his life on May 21 at age 25, according to Smith's fiancée Stacy Holderfield. She attributed it to severe depression.

Holderfield came to Gulfshore as a sponsor to the youth conference and displayed great strength as she shared her story of Smith's death.

"He did not want anyone to think he had any problems.

"Night after night, I would ask God to give me guidance to help him," she said.

Her fiancé's

death has made her more aware and concerned about other youth ministers who may suffer from depression as well.

"If there is anything I would like the youth in the state to learn from this, (it) is that youth ministers are human and have problems too. I would like young people to know that they can be there for their youth minister just as he/she is there for them," Holderfield said.

There are many ways a youth member can show support for his/her youth minister, she pointed out.

"A simple phone call just to say, 'Hey, I'm thinking about you,' could be worth millions," Holderfield said.

Other ways a youth can show support, according to the youth at Indian Springs Church, are by listening to your youth minister when he/she has something to say, and being prepared for the Sunday School lesson each week.

Holderfield has helped the Indian Springs Church youth to stay together during this hard time.

By showing them that she was still going to stick with the youth group, she inspired many to stay around.

"Stacy came to church, sang in the choir, and was always positive. Stacy is such an inspiration to me. She has tried to be here and do some of the things she knew Brian

would do," said Christen Goodin, a youth member from Smith's group.

Smith is missed greatly by the youth at the church in Petal.

"He [Brian] was such a great guy," said Susan Collier, another youth sponsor with the group at Youth Week. "He was always there for them and wanted to carry everyone's burdens."

"Over half of our youth group was saved after he came to our church," said Kathy Hall, an Indian Springs Church youth.

As hard as it was to let go of the past and still have fun at Gulfshore's Youth Week, Holderfield said it was what Smith would have done if he had been there.

"We are all looking for Brian," said Holderfield. "In the auditorium, we are trying to find him. When we sing the funny, silly songs, we can picture him acting crazy and loving it.

"When it comes time to be serious, we can see him singing and praising the Lord."

Holderfield and the youth at the Petal church want other young people to learn from this situation.

"If someone sees this, hopefully it will lead them to call their youth leader and show appreciation for all he has done for the group," said Holderfield.

Signs of Depression

1. Depressed mood.
2. Loss of interest in almost all activities.
3. Significant weight loss/gain, or decrease/increase in appetite.
4. Insomnia or hypersomnia (too much sleep).
5. Excessive nervousness.
6. Fatigue or loss of energy.
7. Feelings of worthlessness or excessive/inappropriate guilt.
8. Loss of concentration or indecisiveness.
9. Recurrent thoughts of death or suicide.

Source: American Psychiatric Association
DSM III Revised

Depression a reality for many people in ministry

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Ministers are not supposed to be depressed. That's what many people, including many ministers themselves, apparently believe.

However, depression among ministers is not an uncommon occurrence, according to Paul Stevenson, director of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

"Well over 70% of the ministers we see are dealing with some level of depression, from mild to clinical," Stevenson said.

Clinical depression is when a person's ability to carry on normal functions is impaired.

"It is the number one behavioral concern we address, and it is usually wrapped in a package that has to do with a sense of loss of ideals, position, or dreams," Stevenson said.

Louis McBurney, a psychiatrist and founder of the Marble Retreat in Colorado, a counseling center for clergy in crisis, writes in "Counseling Christian Workers," that of the ministers who come to Marble Retreat, most suffer from depression.

Burnout is the most common cause, with depressive neurosis the second most common cause, he explained.

"Burnout is related to trying to live up to unrealistically high expectations which is common among the clergy.

"Depressive neurosis is related to unresolved anger or guilt which tends to be poorly handled in the Christian world," McBurney wrote.

The ministry is laden with dangers of over-expectations, perfectionism, and the unwillingness to accept oneself as human with feet of clay, Stevenson observed.

Add to this mixture the reality that many ministers are loners and the result is

a formula for anger, guilt, and depression.

"The young pastor comes out of seminary with high ideals. Then they meet people who have been doing church many more years than they have who don't share their ideals," Stevenson said.

If the minister does not have a solid hold on his own identity and good sense of his own humanity, he may become angry, or bitter, and depressed, he stressed.

Stevenson makes two suggestions for ministers:

— Accept yourself as a sinner saved by grace, a human with feet of clay.

— Quit being a loner.

"Find four or five good people whom you can trust, those who will let you take off the mask and be yourself.

"Jesus had Mary, Martha, and Lazarus," he added. "Their home was a place where he could go."

Even the pastor needs a pastor. Stevenson suggests that a minister can often find among his congregation a few good people who will minister to him in time of need.

For more information, contact Stevenson at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, 1225 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39202. Telephone: (601) 968-1000.



Help for depressed ministers

(not a comprehensive listing)

Brandon
Crossroads Counseling Center
(601) 992-3768

Biloxi
The Barnabas Center
(601) 392-2608

Gulfport
Gulf Coast Baptist Association
— referral service —
(601) 832-4311

Hattiesburg
Temple Baptist Church
Counseling Ministry
(601) 544-1794

Sassafras Hill Counseling Center
(601) 264-9515

Jackson
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Church-Minister Relations Dept.
— referral service/financial aid —
(601) 968-3800
toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651

First Baptist Church
Counseling and Family Ministry
(601) 949-1949

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center
Samaritan Counseling Center
(601) 973-1697

The Shepherd's Staff
(601) 981-0695

Tupelo
Lee County Association
— referral service —
(601) 566-1700

Support Groups
The Covenant Ministerial Fellowship has support groups and offers personal growth seminars. For information about a support group in your area contact:

The Covenant Ministerial Fellowship
P. O. Box 1257
Brandon, MS 39043

Camp Garaywa hosts partnership missions

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Missions have come to Camp Garaywa this summer in a big way, via Mississippi Baptist partnership missions.

Two women, one from Venezuela and one from Colorado, have helped teach Girls in Action (GAs) about missions.

Mississippi Baptists have partnership mission agreements through 1998 with Baptists in Venezuela and Colorado.

Mitzy Christie, from Maracaibo, Venezuela, has spent several weeks at Garaywa, while Karen Thomason of Hudson, Colorado came for the last week of camp on July 21-25.

Both Christie and Thomason are life-long Baptists, were raised in Christian homes, and are members of churches that came into being as a result of Southern Baptist mission work.

Christie's parents are retired oil company employees in a city known for oil production. She was saved at age 12.

The 27-year-old was a public relations professional with an oil company until the company closed last Spring, opening the door for her to do volunteer mission work this summer.

Each day during camp session Christie taught the girls about life in Venezuela and about mission work in that part of the world.

Thomason's journey to Garaywa began two years ago when Marjean Patterson, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, visited the Ponderosa Baptist Conference Center in Larkspur, Colorado, where Thomason serves as a volunteer for GA camp each summer.

While at Garaywa, Thomason led a Bible study for campers. She also taught the girls about Baptist work in Colorado and the partnership agreement with Mississippi Baptists.

Thomason's father was already a Baptist, but her mother was not. While Thomason was an infant, a new Southern Baptist mission started meeting



MISSIONS EDUCATION — Mitzy Christie (left) of Maracaibo, Venezuela, and Karen Thomason (right) of Hudson, Colorado, share time together at Camp Garaywa while teaching GA girls about mission work in their areas. (Photo by Carl M. White)

in the VFW lodge. Her parents joined and Thomason grew up in that church.

In October, Hillside Church will celebrate its 40th anniversary. It is one of the oldest churches in the Colorado Baptist General Convention.

Thomason got started in missions education at age 16 when her Sunday School teacher, Jean Smith, asked her to help with GAs. Thomason had never been to GAs as a child. The invitation began a journey into missions education that continues today.

Thomason is a writer for "Aware," a magazine for GA leaders, and for "Discover," a magazine for GA girls.

Thomason lives in Hudson, Colorado, and is a member of Hillside Church in Long's Peake Association. She is a school assistant librarian.

For more information about Partnership Missions, contact the Partnership Missions Office at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My boyfriend, who is seven years younger than I am, won't make a commitment even though he always wants me there for him — mostly for maid service and sex. Am I wrong to expect more?

You are not wrong to expect more, but you compromised for less and now you're feeling the consequences of your choice. A man and a woman must make a strong commitment toward their long-term relationship, and that means marriage. You should talk with your pastor or a Christian counselor about the importance of marriage. Since you didn't start with a strong marital commitment, the two questions you must answer at this point are:

♦ Will he be able to handle the changes I seek?

♦ Am I willing to maintain a strong stand for those changes when the going gets tough?

Don't anticipate that your boyfriend will jump for joy when you propose these changes. He has come to expect things the way they are and he really has no reason to change. Many such relationships are not strong enough to endure these changes, so go slow and begin by building on the strengths. You presently have a relationship; if you want a rela-

tionship with commitment, you're going to have to move toward marriage. Your pastor or Christian counselor can help you see this issue clearly.

I recently learned that our pastor quietly divorced his wife and kept it a secret from the church. I am disturbed by his deceit and don't know what to do.

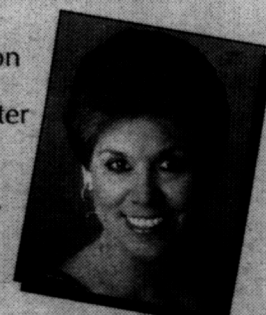
You have two basic choices: continue serving the Lord with the body of believers in your church, or join another church where you can serve the Lord equally as well. Before you consider leaving your church, be sure you have all the facts and pray for God's guidance. There are always two sides to divorce; be careful in listening to the gossip that is circulating. You should talk with your pastor about this matter. Is he the type of person who would deliberately deceive the congregation? Get the facts, and be a prayer warrior for your pastor and his family as they go through this difficult time. Whether it is deception and arrogance — or simply hurt and embarrassment — that prevents them from acknowledging their problems, they need your prayers. You should also pray earnestly for God's will to be done as you decide your personal course of action.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT UNION SUMMER MISSIONARY TESTIMONIES



DAN JONES
Division of Hypertension
School of Medicine,
University Medical Center



LYDIA JONES
Massachusetts - 1972,
University Medical
Center

From our teenage years, both of us felt a desire to participate in "missions." The opportunity to work as BSU Summer Missionaries in Massachusetts in 1972 seemed like a good way to learn more about what "missions" was like. More than anything else, that summer moved mission work from the abstract to the practical.

A year after our marriage and after the first year of medical school for Dan and a year of teaching for Lydia, we were asked to "supervise" 12 college students in an inner city project. Living in a church building surrounded by crime, drugs, and prostitution was an eye-opening experience. Poverty and hopelessness were an accepted way of life in this inner-city area. We had seen nothing like this in our sheltered existence in the rural Bible Belt. Here we faced for the first time the challenge of sharing God's love in a culture where his love was sometimes difficult to see. We learned that "missions" was not just warm and fuzzy, but sometimes painful, risky, and plain hard work. We learned that our own resources were almost always insufficient. We learned a different kind of dependence on him.

From that summer forward, missions took on a new and deeper meaning in our lives. We were left with a renewed commitment to equip ourselves in practical ways for his service. And we were left with a renewed commitment to dependence on him for guidance. We are grateful for the opportunity provided us through BSU summer missions.



Highland, Laurel, hosts women's conference

Highland Church, Laurel, will host the second annual women's conference on Aug. 15-16, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and concluding at 4 p.m. Saturday.

The theme for this year's conference is "A Heart for Godliness." The conference will include seminars on 15 topics.

Guest speaker will be Wanda Gene Hickey of Houston, Texas. Music will be led by Angela Griffin of Laurel. Sherry Myers, director of women's ministries at Highland Church, is the coordinator.

For more information, contact Highland Church at (601) 428-8493.

Brotherhood planning to continue work

By Paul Harrell, Director
Miss. Brotherhood Department

With the formation of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board (NAMB) on June 19, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission no longer exists.

The Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is in the process of

forging new relationships with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville (BSSB), which will develop resources for Men's Ministries, and NAMB, which will coordinate missions education for men and boys.

The Brotherhood Department will continue to be known by that name for the present time. The three age group designations will be:

- ◆ Men's Ministries: adults (formerly Baptist Men).
- ◆ Challengers: youth grades 7-12.
- ◆ Royal Ambassadors: children grades 1-6.

A Men's Ministries model is currently being developed for Mississippi. Training will begin in October.

A program curriculum may

be requested free of charge by contacting the Brotherhood Department at the address below. Months and titles are:

August
Men's Work in Mississippi

September
Impacting Lives Through State Missions

October
Gathering the Harvest — Men Witnessing

November
Experiencing God in Your Marketplace

December
The Changing Face of International Missions

Curricula in current format for Challengers and Royal Ambassadors are available from BSSB Customer Service at (800) 233-1123. Calling this number is necessary to re-establish an order.

Brotherhood will continue to provide leadership in:

- ◆ Volunteers in Missions
- ◆ Disaster Relief
- ◆ Central Hills Retreat
- ◆ Partnership Missions
- ◆ Church Renewal
- ◆ World Missions Conferences

- ◆ World Changers
- ◆ Missions Education
- ◆ Mission Fellowships

The objective of the Brotherhood Department is to involve men and boys in missions to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus. The department's desire is to assist every association and church in Brotherhood work.

For more information, contact the MBCB Brotherhood Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Men's Ministries



Harrell

NOBTS to offer bivo courses in state

A new cycle of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) courses for Mississippi bivocational music directors and education workers will be offered beginning August 25 at *New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary* several locations around the state.

The eight courses in the two-year cycle meet for two hours each week for eight weeks. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. The music courses are:

- ◆ Song Leading
- ◆ Worship Planning
- ◆ Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch
- ◆ Reading Music: Harmony/Melody
- ◆ Hymnology
- ◆ Music Administration/Staff Relations

- ◆ Class Voice.
- ◆ Survey of Church Music Resources.

Each student who completes the eight-course music cycle earns a Church Music Certificate from NOBTS, plus eight hours credit toward an on-campus degree.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$75.

"Project 25" is a cooperative effort of NOBTS, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Baptist Sunday School Board to grant \$100 for the registration fee and first course cost to the first 25 bivocational music directors who register.

The grants are available for both the music and education courses. Students already enrolled in the program are not eligible, and the grant is limited to one person per church.

The first course in the music cycle, "Song Leading," will be held at:

- ◆ Antioch Church, Columbus. 7-9 p.m., beginning August 26. Ed Nix, teacher.

- ◆ Broadmoor Church, Jackson. 7-9 p.m., beginning August 25. Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

- ◆ First Church, Purvis. 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning August 25. James Hayes, teacher.

- ◆ Liberty Church, Liberty. 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning August 25. Buddy McElroy, teacher.

- ◆ First Church, Booneville. 7-9 p.m., beginning August 25. LuAnne Ford, teacher.

The bivocational education worker courses will be offered at Broadmoor, Jackson; First Church, Purvis; and the Lowndes Association in Columbus. Each student who completes the eight-course education cycle will receive a Christian Education Certificate from NOBTS.

Additional classes may be organized in other locations around the state where 10-12 students are interested in enrolling.

For more information, contact coordinator Chester Vaughn, 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.

Jeffers selected as DOM, Leflore Association

Lester M. Jeffers, pastor of Phillipston Church, Leflore Association, has been elected director of missions (DOM) for Leflore Association on a bivocational basis effective July 2. Jeffers is a 1988 graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He has served Laurel Hill Church, Neshoba Association, and Sunflower Church, Sunflower, as pastor prior to his call to Phillipston and Leflore Association. Jeffers can be contacted at Leflore Baptist Association, 600 Grand Blvd. (P.O. Box 671), Greenwood, MS 38930. Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. Telephone: (601) 453-9408. E-mail may be sent to euangelion@microsped.com.

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As a result of renovations at First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, MS, the following ALL WOOD ITEMS are available for sale:

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The 10 Commandments of Sunday School Growth

(This is part 4 of this series of growth laws.)

Law #7 — Learn to use effective attendance campaigns. The two men who have had the greatest impact upon my life in the area of church growth are Andy Anderson and Leon Kilbreth. Both stress the need to use well planned campaigns to help stretch our people's vision. An attendance campaign is like stretching a rubber band, when it is over it shrinks back, but it never shrinks back as small as it was before it was stretched. After a high attendance emphasis it is normal to drop back in attendance. However, if the campaign was a real success this level will be above what it was before the campaign.

In picking a campaign there are two keys. First, make the goal realistic. If your church averages 100 now, it would be foolish to set a goal of 200 or 300. Goals should make us stretch but be reachable. To never reach your goal is a great way to kill a campaign. Please set goals with your head not your heart.

Second, make it fun. Just announcing a campaign or getting the people to sign a card will not work. Make the campaign fun, different, or a contest. In the 7 years of our church's existence we have found many ideas that work, and some that don't. Feel free to contact us if you need ideas about either kind of campaign. Remember the goal is to reach the unchurched and reclaim the inactive. Effective campaigns are partly how we have grown from 200 to 1,400 in attendance in 7 short years:



Dr. Jim Butler, Pastor
Trinity Baptist Church
Southaven, Mississippi

SEEKING N.E. STUDENTS

Editor:

Are there students from your state who will be enrolling in one of the many universities in New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)? The Baptist Convention of New England serves these six states and has ministry on many of the campuses.

On most campuses we do not have access to religious preference list and therefore we have no way of knowing Southern Baptist students enrolled. We need persons in the churches of your state to help us contact them. New England and Baptist Campus Ministries are small but are growing as we seek new ministry opportunities. We are eager to provide assistance and ministry to those who come to any of the great institutions in our area.

If any of your readers have family, friends, or fellow church members who are coming to college in New England, we would like to know who they are and how to contact

them. We would be happy to meet them at airports or train stations, and help them in any way.

Please send information to:
Collegiate Ministries
Baptist Conv. of New England
5 Oak Avenue
Northborough, MA 01532
(508) 393-6013

We will ensure that someone is in touch with them immediately. Thank you, and remember to pray for collegiate ministries in this area.

John Ramirez
Dir. of Campus Ministries
Baptist Conv., New England
Northborough, Mass.

APPRECIATES INSIGHT

Editor:

I appreciate the insight of Andy Brasher in his letter dealing with the "20th century inquisition." The basic conflict is between preachers who think that only they speak for God and the lay people who pay their salaries. If lay people understood the situation as well as Mr. Brasher, they would cut off the money of those who are the supporters of the "witch hunters." They certainly would

stop paying for preachers and their families to attend the Southern Baptist Convention to vote against the interest of lay people.

Ray A. Thompson
Jackson

NEEDS FURNITURE

Editor:

Friars Point is in the northwest corner of Coahoma County and a part of the North Delta Association. A Bible Class was begun last August, which developed into the desire for a church.

An old elementary school building, used by a farm for a shop and equipment storage, seemed ideal for a new facility. We approached the owners, and Mississippi Baptists gave us the money to buy this 13,000 sq. ft. building and 9-1/2 acres of property. Three mission groups will help this summer in renovating the building, and much has already been done. Hopefully, we can move into the building this fall for our first worship service.

Plans are for this to be a Church, a Day Care Center, and

a Senior Adult Ministry. However, we need more help! We need folding chairs, folding tables, children's classroom furniture, office furniture, any kind of church furniture needed for a new church.

Should you have any furniture that could be helpful, please call M. C. Johnson (Director of Missions, North Delta Association) in Clarksdale, home (601) 627-9579 or at the office of North Delta Association (601) 627-3417.

M.C. Johnson, Dir. of Missions
North Delta Association
Clarksdale

SEEKING HARTFORD BOOKS

Editor:

We are looking for old Hartford Music Books. Some of the books will be on display in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Some will be used in the Hartford Museum. Please don't destroy these precious books. They need to be passed down to the generations to come.

Thelma McClung Gibson
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Disney no-show intensifies boycott call

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Disney Company fumbled a supposed attempt July 23 to reach out to Southern Baptists and others, in the process pulling a 500,000-member women's organization into the boycott of the entertainment giant and causing other groups to consider such action.

John Cooke, Disney's executive vice president of corporate affairs, pulled out of a meeting he had scheduled in Washington with pro-family organizations critical of the company's productions and policies, announcing that he had been asked to introduce U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright at a Los Angeles meeting.

It was the second time Cooke had withdrawn from such a meeting and the Disney representative who replaced Cooke listened to concerns but offered no plan or commitment to deal with them, participants said.

Afterward, Concerned Women for America (CWA) announced it is joining the boy-

cott as a result of Disney's stonewalling. CWA, the country's largest pro-family women's organization, rarely participates in boycotts, staff members said.

At the same news conference, Focus on the Family and Family Research Council — both with policies of not boycotting — said they will consider a reversal in this case.

A spokesman for the Atlanta-based King for America Inc. civil rights organization said it will seek to bring other civil rights groups into the effort.

"I am very disturbed that Mr. Cooke was not here to meet with us. I came to this meeting from Nashville, Tenn., with the understanding that we were going to hear some proposals from Mr. Cooke in his decision-making authority at Disney..." said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

"Now folks, I've been dissed before. I know when I've been dissed, and I'm going to make

sure that Southern Baptists know they've been dissed," Land said.

Tom Deegan, a corporate spokesman for Disney, said in a telephone interview from California there "was never any understanding on our part that we were to bring" a proposal to the meeting.

"Our intention today was to meet and listen and to dialogue with people who have expressed their anger with us," he said.

Land told reporters, "The next time we meet with Disney, it will be at Disney's invitation and it will be when their attention has been focused by the grassroots boycott that's going to take place, which is just beginning. And we will be there to listen to decision-making authorities giving us their plan for how they intend to move their corporation back to a wholesome, family friendly entertainment conglomerate."

"Until then, I don't think there are going to be any more meetings."

"Disney needs to understand that this boycott has just gotten started. There is an avalanche traveling downhill at break-neck speed consisting of millions of Southern Baptists who are going to withhold their pocketbook from Disney. Disney will be in our prayers; it will not be in our pocketbooks until there is a major shift in corporate policy."

As Wall Street stock prices continue soaring to new records, The Disney Company has become a notable exception.

The nation's media have taken notice. "The New York Times," for example, reported July 10 the price of Disney stock "has slipped 9.7% from its 52-week high of \$85.375 a share on May 12 to close yesterday at \$77.0625."

The Dow Jones industrial average, meanwhile, was hovering near 8,000 in mid-July, up from an unprecedented 7,000-mark just months earlier.

Meanwhile, Disney's latest animated feature, "Hercules," tallied \$58 million in its first two weeks in theaters — a "poor showing," according to "The New York Times" article, roughly equal to last year's slump with "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," compared to "Pocahontas" and "The Lion King" the previous two years.

More troubles may be ahead, of Disney's own making.

After its self-congratulatory transformation of "Ellen" into network TV's first lead homosexual character this spring, a move applauded by the homosexual rights movement and deeply grieved by numerous evangelicals, Disney's ABC-TV will feature a Thursday evening sitcom this fall about a Catholic parish priest, titled "Nothing Sacred."

Disney/ABC's description of the show:

"It's tough being a priest in the '90s. Just ask Father Ray.

In one morning alone, he's nearly been fired for advising a pregnant teenager to follow her own instincts.

He's had to turn down a bribe in the confessional, even though he's desperate for money to keep his church afloat.

His college flame has just walked back into his life and reignited old passions. And now his mentor is asking him to deliver a sermon proving the existence of God.

How should he know if God exists? ... he hasn't even finished the book yet!"

ABC calls the lead character "one of the most accessible and loving priests around. He's been cursed with the God-given gift for touching people's souls. If only Ray could find God to sooth his soul."

Gulfshore Youth Week staff



Nineteen young men and women composed the 1997 Gulfshore Youth Faculty. During the six sessions they taught 3,003 youth and sponsors. A total of 617 young people registered decisions with 159 professions of faith.

ROW 1 (left to right) Kyle Cannon, Linden, Ala.; Pam Coghlan, Laurel; Mandy Stegall, Pontotoc; Lorie Henry, Leighton, Ala.; Emily Pate, Woodland; Grant Stegall, Pontotoc; ROW 2 (left to right) Myradel Dubard, Carrollton; Martha Hood, Shannon; Kaylee Goar, Richton; Elizabeth Didlake, Brandon; Jennifer Ethridge, Meridian; Teresa Chandler, Greenville; Janice Miller, Aberdeen; Kevin Williams, Columbus; ROW 3 (left to right) Clay Stegall, Pontotoc; Josh Brewer, Gulfport; Mitch Walker, Mendenhall; Kelly Wheat, Prentiss; Stephen Byrd, Kenner; Reid Vance, Canton.



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SEEKING BOOKS by Robert G. Gromacki, Bible Teacher Cedarville College. Send list to Roy Cordle, 530 Clubview Drive, Glencoe, AL 35905.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Barney Watkins is available for supply, revivals or bivocational pastor. His address is Rt. 2, Box 167-A, McCool, MS 39108 or call (601) 547-9937.

J. Hardee Kennedy was honored by Pleasant Grove Church, West Clarke County, on July 6, for 60 years of ministry, inclusive of pastorates in Mississippi and Louisiana and service as professor and academic vice president at New Orleans Seminary. He was twice pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, 1939 to 1943 and 1985 to 1989. In the anniversary service Kennedy preached from the same pulpit, read from the same Bible, and used the same text (Isaiah 54:1-2) as his first sermon in July of 1937. Roger Carlisle, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, led the congregation in recognitions and dedication, and in tribute to



Kennedy

Kennedy and to his wife Virginia. The observance closed with a noon meal.

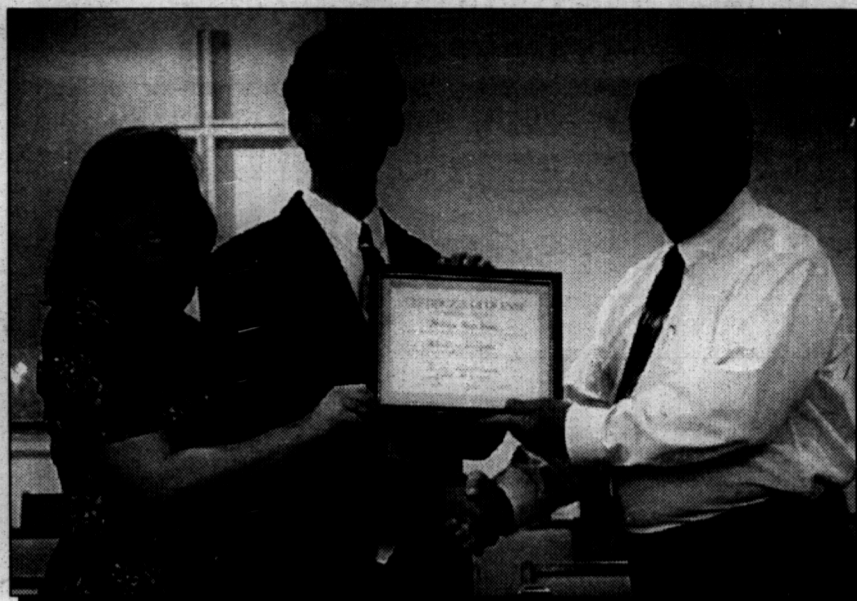
Lula McCaa was honored on July 13 at Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, for 17 years of service as church secretary. She has served in a staff position for 20 years that include three years as kindergarten director. McCaa served with former pastors Robert Sanderson, Roy Myers, interim Brad Curry, and Jerry Mixon, present pastor. She was presented an engraved plaque and a framed sunset print.



McCaa

Revival Results

Rocky Creek, Lucedale: July 13-16; Ben Carlisle, evangelist; Jon McCartney, music; three professions of faith, one surrender to ministry; Jerry Mixon, pastor.



Matthew Brown was recently licensed to preach by Trinity Church, Fulton. Brown is pictured with his wife Nikki and his father, Larry, a deacon. Brown is available for pulpit supply and can be contacted at (601) 862-6959.

STAFF CHANGES

Tim Roaten has resigned as pastor of Parkhill Church, Jackson, effective July 13. He is available for pulpit supply, revivals, interim pastor, or pastorate. A native of New Albany, Roaten is a graduate of Blue Mountain College. He can be

reached at (601) 842-0911 or 2346 Oakview Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801.

Mark Parnell and **Lisa P. Moore** began their new duties at First Church, Kosciusko, on July 1. Parnell, associate pastor, previously served for 12 years as minister of youth, education, and recreation at First Church, Poplarville. A native of North Carolina, Parnell received his education at Mars Hills College and Southwestern Seminary. Moore is a graduate of Mississippi State University. She served a social work internship at the Attala Corporate Child Development Center in Kosciusko and later worked as a preschool teacher and also for a time as director of the facility.



Parnell



Moore

C. Mayo Jr., pastor, dies

Clarence Mayo Jr., 64, died of heart failure July 1 in Choctaw County. Services were held July 3 with burial in Forest Lawn Cemetery. He was pastor of Mount Nelson Church in Neshoba County. Other churches he pastored in Mississippi were Macedonia and West End, Louisville; Beacon Street, Philadelphia; Ingomar, New Albany; Springdale, Ripley; Weir, Weir; and Cedar Bluff, Cedar Bluff. He was also active in Alaska Baptist Missions.

Survivors include: wife Barbara; daughter Kristi Mayo of Meridian; son Mark Mayo of Walnut Grove; brother James C. Mayo of Louisville; and one grandson.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



Approximately 160 students met for the 1997 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir held recently on William Carey College campus in Hattiesburg. Students returned to the campus for a rehearsal period. Pictured (from left) are David Young, Laurel, director of the instrumental program at Carey, instructs flutists Jamison Lewis, New Albany, and Stephanie Easley, Madison.

Ministers' Golf Tournament, sponsored by Mississippi College, will be held Aug. 4 and 5 at Live Oaks Golf Club, Highway 49 North in Pocahtontas. The cost of \$60 includes green fees and cart for two days, Tuesday lunch and refreshments. For more information call the Office of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3265.

Aubrey Keith Lucas, president emeritus of the University of Southern Mississippi, will receive the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters and deliver the commencement address during the Mississippi College summer graduation exercises on Aug. 2. Lucas, a native Mississippian, received the bachelor of science and the master of arts degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. He continued his education at Florida State University where he received a Ph.D. Lucas is a member of Parkway Heights United Methodist Church of Hattiesburg. The ceremonies are scheduled for 2 p.m. in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on campus.

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HOMECOMINGS

First Church, Ridgeland: Aug. 3; 50th year; Bible Study, 8:45 a.m.; services, 9:45 a.m.; fellowship and celebration following the noon meal.

Big Springs, Brookhaven: Aug. 3; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; Landreth Murphree, Ripley, guest speaker; 1 p.m. singing; Eric Naquin, pastor.

Pleasant Hill, Bogue Chitto: Aug. 3; 11 a.m., Reese Kyzar, Rolling Fork, guest speaker; noon meal; singing, 1:30 p.m., Heightsmen Quartet from Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; Floyd Higginbotham, pastor.

Rock Bluff (Smith): Aug. 3; 11 a.m.; Howard Benton, former pastor, preaching; followed by meal; George Boone,

music; Mike Clark, pastor.

Sardis (Smith): Aug. 3; services, 10:30 a.m.; Julius Thompson, former pastor, preaching; lunch followed by singing in afternoon; special offering for cemetery; Blain McLain, pastor.

First, Ovelt: Aug. 3; 10:55 a.m.; noon meal; 1:15 p.m. singing; Meyers Family, Moselle, guest singers; Mike Aultman, Sumrall, guest speaker; Tommy D. Mangum, pastor.

Crossroads, Decatur: Aug. 10; 10 a.m.; lunch at noon; singing and testimonies at 3 p.m.

Sunrise, Petal: Aug. 3; 10:50 a.m.; afternoon singing following lunch; Larry Aultman, Alpharetta, Ga.; Joe Clark, Tennessee, guest singer; Cecil Hathorn, pastor.

The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

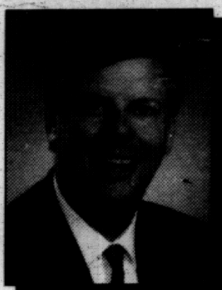
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

Garaywa ceremony postponed

The Sept. 6 groundbreaking for the new adult lodge planned for Camp Garaywa in Clinton has been postponed. A new date for the groundbreaking will be announced as soon as it is determined.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Sharkey-Issaquena Association has invited Gene Mims, vice-president of the Church Growth Group at the Baptist Sunday School Board, to present an overview of his book "Kingdom Principles for Church Growth." The conference will start at 6 p.m. on Aug. 16 at First Church, Rolling Fork. Reservations must be made by Aug. 6 for a catfish supper beginning at 5 p.m. For reservations and more information contact Lamar Frizzell, pastor of Straight Bayou Church at (601) 836-5668.



Mims

Kolola Springs Church, Caledonia, will hold dedication services for its new sanctuary on Aug. 3 at 10:30 a.m. A covered dish dinner will follow the services. Open House will be held at 1:30-3:30 p.m. On program will include Carey Sansing, Columbus, guest speaker; Jim

Varnon, former pastor, special comments; and Clayton Ledbetter, former music leader, music. Don Harding is pastor.

A celebration of 50 years will be held at First Church, Ridgeland, Aug. 3 at 9:45 a.m. Bible study will start at 8:45 a.m. Following the noon meal there will be a time of fellowship and celebration.

Thaxton Church, Pontotoc Association, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Aug. 10. Worship services will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and a program in the afternoon. Kerry Nelson will bring the morning message. Philip Caples is pastor.

Pinckney Church, Union, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Aug. 3. The two-hour service will begin at 10 a.m. There will also be a special time of singing and fellowship following lunch in fellowship hall.

Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will host "Spinning Spokes" reunion, on Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. in the gym. For more



Acteens from Highland Church, Vicksburg, recently visited Jackson County Association on an Acteen Activator mission trip. They worked under the supervision of Dottie Williamson and held two Backyard Bible Clubs a day in housing projects. Bob Storie, director of ministries, arranged a tour of the Seaman's Center and also of a Canadian ship in dock. There were several professions of faith during the week. Pictured are Robin Herrington, Keri Connelly, Rachel Patten, Melanie Herrington, Whitney Joy Richardson, Gina Harrison, Jessica Rickles, Jackie Richardson, and Dollie Harrison. Brian Ivey is pastor of Highland Church.

information or to make reservations by Aug. 15, call Jan Gilbert at the church office (601) 366-8433.

Run For The Son, sponsored by First Church, Jackson, will

be held Aug. 16. The race, a 5K run/walk and one mile fun run, will begin in front of the capitol at 8 a.m. For more information, call the Family Life Center of First Church at (601) 949-1945.

REVIVAL DATES

Gatesville, Crystal Springs: July 30-Aug. 3; Wed.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Lonnie Case, Brookhaven, evangelist; Roland Dear, Gatesville Church, music; Millard Mackey, pastor.

Cliff Temple, Natchez: Aug. 3-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekdays, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Tommy Anderson, Forest, evangelist; Hubert Greer, Wesson, music; B. Don Womble, pastor.

Lake Harbor, Brandon: Aug. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Max Price, evangelist; James Beasley, music; James Edwards, pastor.

Union Hall, Brookhaven: Aug. 3-8; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., lunch, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Max Parris, evangelist; Mike and Angela Britt, music; Billy Joe Deer, pastor.

Splunge (Monroe): Aug. 3-6; 7 p.m. nightly; Charlie Cooper, evangelist; Craig Butler, music; James Rutledge, pastor.

Ogden, Bentonia: Aug. 3-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Don Nerren, Brandon, evangelist; Mose D. Dangerfield, Clinton, music; Emerson Tedder, pastor.

Shady Grove, Pontotoc: Aug. 3-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.; Bill Bozeman, Mobile, evange-

list; Andy Roe, Memphis, music; Leonard D. Howell, pastor.

Philipp, Philipp: Aug. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Aug. 4-6, 7:30 p.m.; Mike Smith, Marks, evangelist; Wilton Neal, North Carrollton, music; Thomas Bruce, pastor.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: Aug. 3-6; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ron Phillips, Hixson, Tenn., evangelist; Kara Blackard, pastor.

Mt. Zion, Independence: Aug. 3-6; Sunday, regular times; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Homer Martinez, Dallas, Tex., evangelist; Billy Rayburn, music; Rick Burton, pastor.

Mantee, Mantee: Aug. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., children's activities, 12:30-3:30 p.m.; youth activities each night following services; Wed., 6 p.m., cookout banquet.

Rock Bluff (Smith): Aug. 4-6; 7:30 p.m.; Roy Davis, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; Mike Clark, pastor, music.

Hopewell (Choctaw): Aug. 3-8; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., covered dish lunch, 5 p.m. supper, and 6 p.m. services; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. nightly; Malcolm Byrd, McCool Church, speaking; Tommy Allen, pastor.

Holcomb (North Central): Aug. 3-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.;

Robert Pittman, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; Blake Krumalis, Southaven, music; Don Dunavant, Mid-America Seminary, will also be preaching on Sunday; Randy Ashley, pastor.

Calvary, Silver Creek: Aug. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Sid Johnson, Jackson, music; Leon Wallace, pastor.

Evansville (Northwest): Aug. 3-7; Sunday-Thurs., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Billy Lee Foley, New Albany, evangelist; Kenny Adams, Tylertown, music; Burnette Fielder, pastor.

New Hope (Lafayette): Aug. 3-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Joe Nunley, pastor.

Clear Branch, Wesson: Aug. 10-13; Randall Broome, evangelist; Jeff Spooneybarger, worship leader; James L. Nichols, pastor.

Trinity, Petal: Aug. 3-6; Sunday, 10 a.m., followed by lunch, and 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Shurden, Petal, preaching and singing; Rayford Moore, pastor.

New Hope, Foxworth: Aug. 9-15; Sat., cook out and gospel singing; Sunday, 125th anniversary, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., worship, 10:45 a.m., lunch, 6 p.m. singing, and 7 p.m. with

James Mallard preaching, Gary Hodges, music; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m., different former pastors preaching, and David Grimsley, music; Kent Campbell, pastor.

Harmony, Quitman: Aug. 3-8; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and afternoon services; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jimmie Garrard, Meridian, evangelist; Phyllis Griffin, music; T.D. Traylor, pastor.

Fellowship, Summit: Aug. 8-10; 7 p.m. nightly; Gary Jackson, evangelist; James Bickham, music; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Howard Brister, first pastor of Fellowship Church, speaker.

Vaiden (Carroll): Aug. 3-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Terry Long, Winona, evangelist; Joe Styron, Kilmichael, music; Leon Holly, pastor.

Mt. Pleasant, Raleigh: Aug. 3-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Charles Burnham, Magee, evangelist; Latrelle Crumpton, Raleigh, music; Carey Bass, pastor.

Grace Chapel, Brooklyn: Aug. 3-8; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Thomas C. Erkhart, pastor, evangelist.

Horseshoe, Tchula: Aug. 4-6; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; George Mims, Black Hawk Church, Carroll Association, evangelist; Bill Blount, pastor.

LIFE AND WORK

Issues facing society: Old age

1 Timothy 5:1-10, 16; Titus 2:1-5

By Geneva England

Her wrinkled forehead bowed downward as her weary heart lifted a prayer heavenward. No sweeter, more sincere prayer could have come from the lips of Solomon himself. As Granny thanked God "for the light of another day," the younger masses of the world flaunt their arrogance and self-sufficiency. Through rebellion and disrespect, many ignore their responsibilities to elders.

In contrast, God's plan of love and care creates a cycle of perfection: parents lovingly care for their young children, who as adults, lovingly care for their aged parents. God, indeed, is a God of perfection.

Respect and Ministry (1 Tim. 5:1-10, 16). The Apostle

Paul, in his letter to the young minister Timothy, gave explicit instructions for the respect and ministry due older members of the church, especially family members. Older men are not to be criticized sharply or harshly, but rather treated as fathers. Likewise, older women are to be treated like mothers.

By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul gave further instructions regarding the treatment to and provisions for parents and grandparents, plus other older family and church members. His plan honors their wisdom and contributions, unlike the modern-day, throw-away attitude. According to Paul, the aged should receive needed assistance from their



England

closest relatives or, if none, from the church. In this plan Paul lists specific qualifications for widows deserving assistance (See 5:3-6, 9-16).

Caring for the elderly is true religion; in that, it demonstrates the spirit of Christ and pleases him. Any child or grandchild refusing to follow these instructions is worse than an infidel and open to blame. These two charges are grave in God's sight and should be in man's. In the ten commandments God admonished children to obey their parents. Again, God's perfect order can be seen in the promise accompanying this command: a longer life for obedient children. What a comforting thought for both parents and children!

Ministry (Titus 2:1-5). Titus, another of Paul's young helpers, also received one of Paul's letters, which contained certain "sound doctrine" to be preached to the aged members of the

church. First, older men must practice moderation and self-control in all actions and remain steadfast in their faith in God. They must oppose any perverted gospel, such as those plaguing Paul's ministry, and ours.

Second, older women must live godly lives, void of slander and trouble making. Their words and lifestyles must demonstrate to the younger wives how to care for children and love and respect their husbands. God expects women — young and old alike — to demonstrate their love and faithfulness through self-control, faithfulness, and compassion.

God instituted a humane and loving ministry for people in their twilight years. No family member or any older person should be abandoned to a lonely, impoverished existence. By practicing Christian and familial love, Christians demonstrate the love of our heavenly father. However, our fast-paced society has steadily moved away from this Christian principle of

esteeming its older members. Even worse, think how many credit-card, telephone, or door-to-door scams are directed against senior citizens.

Again, notice the perfect order established by God. Each younger generation should benefit from the experience and godliness of older men and women. Through prayer and regular Bible study, strengthened by years of combating evil, these steadfast warriors stand as sentinels among the throngs of young converts. Furthermore, these older saints testify to hope: "Remembering mine affliction and my misery.... This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed" (Lam. 3:19-22).

God truly is a God of perfection; his order and timetable can not be improved. For our families and nation to survive, we must bow our heads in humble submission to God.

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Using spiritual gifts effectively

1 Corinthians 14:12-25

By Jason Bird

The thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians interrupts — albeit very eloquently interrupts — Paul's discussion on spiritual gifts in the church. In the fourteenth chapter he focuses on the subject again so the church would know how to use spiritual gifts appropriately and effectively in the church.

Use Gifts To Build Up The Church (14:12-19). The church at Corinth was a worldly church. The greatest evidence of this is the mockery they made of worship. Apparently, most of the congregation was obsessed with the gift of speaking in tongues resulting in chaos in the church. While not condemning speaking in

tongues, Paul urged the members to seek greater spiritual gifts which edified the church instead of those which brought confusion. Speaking in tongues still serves as an object of confusion to many believers today.

Given during the apostolic age, the gift of speaking in tongues validated the authority and power of the gospel. By the power of the Holy Spirit the early church leaders spoke in languages not previously known to them, so that others might hear the message of salvation. It was one of God's mighty ways to overcome all obstacles with the power of the gospel.

Pagan worship of the day



Bird

also had a form of speaking in tongues. As a part of worship to their deities, the pagans would work themselves into a frenzy and participate in a form of ecstatic speech. The carnal church at Corinth had apparently taken on the style and form of the pagan worship that surrounded them.

Paul points out the inherent problem speaking in tongues brings to worship. First, speaking in tongues does not involve one's whole being. It involves the emotion, but not the mind. The apostle states it is better to sing and to pray and to understand what you are singing and praying. Secondly, speaking in tongues may alienate other worshippers. If others do not understand what is being said, then they cannot participate in the worship experience. Other worshippers cannot even say

"Amen!" if they cannot understand what has been said.

The command to limit the speaking of tongues was not motivated by jealousy. Paul had experienced this phenomenon more than anyone in the church. But since Paul's desired edification of the whole church, he preferred not to exalt this gift, stating that five understandable words were of more benefit to the church than ten thousand unintelligible ones.

Use Gifts To Communicate The Gospel (14:20-25). In 14:3, Paul declares that "everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort." This clarifies the role of prophecy in the early church. Much like a preacher today, a prophet proclaimed the truth of the word of God.

The gift of prophecy was superior to the gift of tongues because it had a much greater impact. Paul states that an unbeliever could enter a wor-

ship service where prophecy was taking place, be convicted of sin and commit his life to God. The prophecy would help the unbeliever to understand the existence and presence of God. On the other hand, an unbeliever who witnessed others speaking in tongues would only have the impression that they were all crazy!

Paul's point reiterates all he tried to teach the Corinthians: nothing should distract from the gospel message. All of the gifts of the Spirit are given so others may see God. This important lesson speaks to believers today as well. Each person has a part to play in reaching others for Christ. Believers should ask for wisdom to know the gift God has given them, and then faithfully use that gift to impact the world around them for Christ. Only then is God glorified.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Move on to maturity

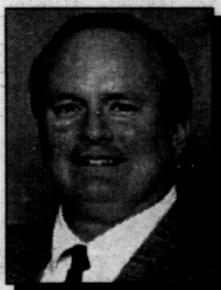
Hebrews 5:11-6:12

By Wayne VanHorn

The Central Bible Truth for today's lesson summarizes the intent of our focal passage. "Christians are to grow in maturity and faithfulness to Christ." A survey of the history of Christianity reveals a tension that has existed from the time of Pentecost. This tension is between the placing of faith in the work that Christ has accomplished in his death and resurrection, and in encouraging converts to do all that is necessary to grow in their faith and understanding of the Lord. When emphasis is placed on the former, a satisfaction with just being saved often sets in. When

the emphasis shifts to the later, often activities are interpreted as being necessary for salvation. The writer of Hebrews seeks to convince his readers of the fact that those who are really saved grow in their faith. No growth is an indication of no real saving faith!

Shame! (5:11-14). Wishing to tell his readers more about Jesus in his role as High Priest, the writer of Hebrews regrets that they are not able to understand the deeper things of Christ. He expresses this by saying, "you have become dull of hearing" (5:11), "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to



VanHorn

teach you the elementary principles", and "you have come to need milk and not solid food" (5:12).

The application of the "milk-solid food" analogy in 5:13-14 identifies the readers' problem. If babies never get off the bottle they will not survive to maturity. Spiritual maturity comes by training our senses to discern good and evil through practice (5:14). The term "practice" (NASB) derives from the Greek word meaning "to do something," or "to live something." The readers were guilty of professing faith without fully delving into the life of faith.

Grow Up! (6:1-3). God's desire for every true believer is for us to "press on to maturity!" Saving faith not only takes believers to heaven some day, it transforms their lives here and now. The readers had mastered many important concepts of the

Christian faith enumerated in 6:1-3. However, they had grown content with this knowledge and had failed to mature. The writer of Hebrews sought to awaken them to the deeper realities of the Christian life.

Warning! (6:4-8). These verses have been used to support the idea that Christians can lose their salvation. The truth is that no one can lose their salvation! Salvation is an act of God's grace appropriated by faith. God takes the initiative. We respond in acceptance or rejection. When we accept God's overtures of love by placing our faith in Christ, Jesus gives us eternal life and places us in his Father's hands where we cannot be plucked out (John 10:27-29). We are sealed by the Holy Spirit, a seal that cannot be broken (Ephesians 1:13-14). Finally, as Paul wrote to the Philippians, "For I am confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will perfect it until

the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6). Are we to think that the writer of Hebrews was departing from this certainty of salvation to suggest that one could lose their salvation if they did not live right? No! The writer of Hebrews is dealing with the validity of one's faith when such faith is not accompanied by genuine signs of growth. Saving faith always manifests itself in the form of maturing faith in the lives of true believers. Are we satisfied with tasting of the heavenly gift (6:4) when the Lord wants us to wholly consume that which he offers us?

Move On! (6:9-12). The writer concludes this section with a call to "show diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end" (6:11). Only a growing, maturing relationship with Christ is acceptable evidence of true conversion. Such maturity brings assurance and hope.

VanHorn is pastor, First Church Columbia.

Kid's Page

90-year-old's work with children applauded

By Bob Murdaugh
Ala. Woman's Missionary Union

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP) — Attempting to bear all of the world's worries on his little shoulders, Robert strolls into his Mission Friends classroom. Troubling thoughts of his father's hospitalization weigh heavily on the perplexed preschooler's fragile mind.

quickly becomes glued to him for a moment.

Like the hundreds of other preschoolers who have studied missions under Lilley at Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala., Robert has grown to expect an encouraging embrace and listening ear from her every week. She hasn't failed to meet those expectations for Robert and even the many adults who visit her to rekindle Sunbeam and Mission Friends memories.

The individualized attention Lilley has unselfishly shown to her missions education students has earned her Woman's Missionary Union's national Sunbeams/Mission Friends Teacher of the Year recognition. WMU President Wanda Lee recently honored her with a plaque and a \$100 gift certificate during WMU Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Participants in the celebration of Lilley's 75-plus years with Sunbeams and Mission Friends included Dauphin Way Church member Betty Vinson, who nominated her for the recognition, and WMU preschool consultants Kathy Burns, Rhonda Reeves, and Jennifer Law. WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien pinned a corsage on Lilley in recognition of Sunbeams/Mission Friends' 100th anniversary.

According to Vinson, several of Lilley's Sunbeams and Mission Friends have become preachers, home and foreign missionaries and strong leaders in their local churches. Each year, many of the 6-year-olds who have been in her class make professions of faith in Jesus Christ due to her sharing the plan of salvation with them individually.

"She imparts far more than simply the materials provided by WMU and the state convention," Vinson said. "Mrs. Lilley was so pleased with the name change from Sunbeams to Mission Friends in 1970.

She has used the idea of children making friends around the world in her programs: She and her children often eat foods from a particular geographic area, play games related to that place, and create stories about that area as they take

make-believe trips."

Burns commented, "Reading Mrs. Lilley's testimony on the importance of missions education for the little ones was like hearing a modern-day Anna Louise Elsom and the words of 'Cousin George' Braxton Taylor, the ones who began the Sunbeam Band.

"Changes have taken place in missions programs for preschoolers over the years, but the focus is still the same — Jesus and his mission!"



GEOGRAPHY LESSON — Esther Lilley (standing) puts her Mission Friends students to the test at Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala., with a world map as they study the importance of missions around the world. (BR special photo by Bob Murdaugh)

The overburdened youngster quickly seizes a warm embrace from his teacher, Esther Miller Lilley, already aware of his concern and confusion about his father's health. "Mrs. Lilley," 90, has spotted Robert from among the steady flow of arriving children and

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Travis Burkhalter. I go to Sumrall Elementary School. I'm going into 5th grade. I attend church at Oloh First Baptist. My birthday is July 8. My hobbies are swimming, computers, puzzles, and just playing outside.

Please write to:
100 Burkhalter Rd.
Sumrall, MS 39482



VBS serenade



Vacation Bible Schoolers at Country Woods Church, Jackson, performed the musical "The Good News Stampede" June 22 during Family Night at the church. Adults who participated in the musical included (foreground, from left) Glenn Driskell; minister of music/education Steve Bufkin; and pastor Edward Mahaffey.

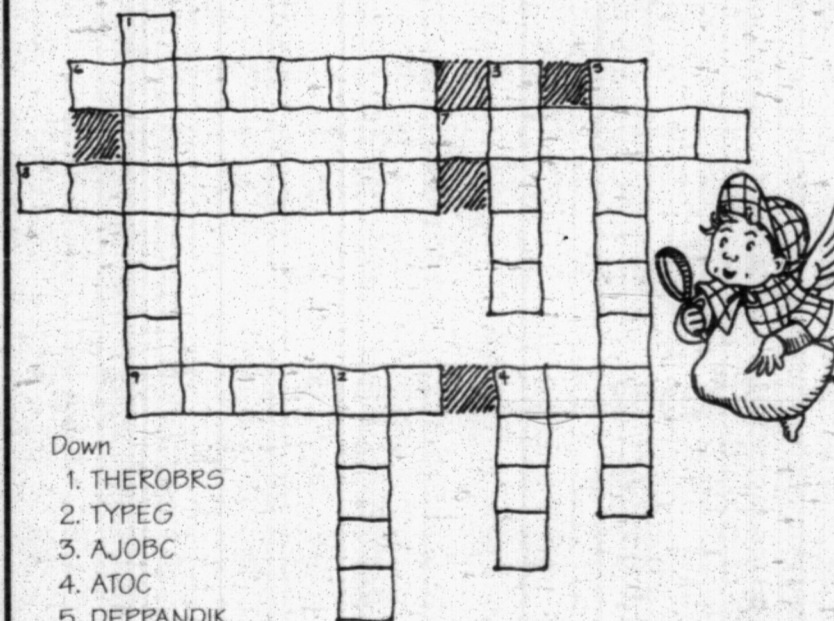
Garaywa, here we come!



On their way to GA camp at Camp Garaywa in Clinton earlier this summer are members of Green's Creek Church, Petal: (back row, from left) Monica Spell, Molly Lott, Alisha Powell, Karmen Phillips, Penny Gatlin, Jennifer Scott, (front row, from left) Kimberly Murphy, Amy Hamm, and Candace Weldon.

MISSING PERSON PUZZLER

A famous Bible character is missing. You are the investigator assigned to the case. The scrambled words below provide nine important clues. See if you can complete the crossword puzzle and guess the name of the missing character.



Down

1. THEROBRG
2. TYPEG
3. AJOBC
4. ATOC
5. DEPPANDIK

Across

6. MEARDER
7. MAFINE
8. PHARTIPO
9. LIVERS PUC

Have you discovered who is missing?

The story is found in Genesis 37-47 — it's a long one.

(But finish the puzzle before you peek!)

Source: *Solving Bible Mysteries* by Joy MacKenzie. (Zondervan, 1994), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1997

UAG EZ XEMX RCNN
NALZ NCUZ, MFP IZZ
QAAP PMOI, NZX ECK
GZUGMCF ECI XAFQSZ
UGAK ZLCN, MFP ECI
NCWI XEMX XEZO IWZMD
FA QSCNZ.

UCCIX WZXZG

XEGZZ: XZF

Clue: S equals U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Revelation Two Twenty-Nine.